(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, location-wise;

(c) the long term plan drawn up for expanding/ setting up of steel industry in remote and backward areas, State-wise, location-wise; and

(d) the impact of sharp reduction in import duties in 1996-97 on the production of stainless steel and alloy steel?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). According to the new industrial policy announced in July, 1991 "Iron & Steel Industry" has been removed from the list of industries reserved for the Public Sector and also exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing. No Industrial Licence is therefore required to set up Iron and Steel production/ processing facilities except for certain locational restrictions. Entrepreneurs are therefore free to set up such facilities anywhere in the country based on their commercial judgement. At present the Union Government do not propose to set up any new greenfield integrated steel producing unit in the country. However, the State Government of Orissa has proposed to set up an integrated steel plant under the name and style of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. in which some of the Central Public Sector undertakings have/proposed to have equity participation.

(d) Alongwith the reduction in peak import duties on stainless steel and alloy steel in the budget for 1996-97, import duty on stainless steel scrap, which is the basic raw material for manufacture of stainless steel products, has also been reduced from 20% advalorem to 10%, which is expected to benefit the alloy stainless steel industry.

Number of Passengers to Gulf Countries

1070. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of passengers who travel to the Gulf countries from Trivandrum Air Port per month;

(b) whether any foreign Civil Aviation Companies came forward to undertake the services to the Gulf countries from Trivandrum Air Port;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IMBRAHIM): (a) The average monthly traffic between Trivandrum and Gulf (including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait) is of the order of 32,635 passengers.

(b) Requests have been received from designated airlines of Saudi Arabia and Qatar for operation of air services from Trivandurm airport. U.A.E. has also sought similar traffic right for Emirates Airline.

(c) and (d) In the absence of adequate quid-pro-quo to our national carriers and due to infrastructural constraints at the airport, there requests have not been agreed to so far.

[Translation]

Norms Fixed for Selection of Regional Programmes

1071. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for selection of regional programmes for telecast from Doordarshan Kendras;

(b) the number of proposals received in regard to Garhwal and Kumaon region of Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of such programmes selected, and

(d) whether the Government propose to telecast more regional programmes of these areas?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Revival of Sick Industries

1072. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trade Unions in West Bengal are preparing for a general strike on the revival of sick industries and opening of closed factories;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, whether the Government have since opened any dialogue with the representatives of Trade Unions of the State?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Allotment of Wagons for Transportation of Foodgrains

1073. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a representation from the Federation of the All India Foodgrain Dealers Association, Delhi, regarding restoration of the Quick Transit Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of allotment of railway wagons for the transportation of foodgrains during each of the last two years and current year so far;

(d) whether the number of allotted wagons are sufficient and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide more wagons for the transportation of foodgrains on the permanent basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A representation was received from the Federation of All India Foodgrain Dealers Association, Delhi, regarding restoration of Quick Transit Service (QTS) ex Delhi to Madras for moving the foodgrains. The QTS has, however, already been abolished as per a policy decision taken by the Ministry of Railways.

(c) to (e) As per the Governmental directions movement of foodgrains offered by Food Corporation of India is given higher priority to meet the overall demands of the Nation. The movement of foodgrains on the Trade account is also given due consideration. However, due to operational exigencies and priorities for other commodities, certain time lag between placement of indent and supply of wagons is inescapable. As on 22.11.1996 indents registered five days back only were outstanding which is quite satisfactory. There are no wagons earmarked only for foodgrains and wagons are allotted as per priority to oldest date of registration. Loading of Public foodgrains in Delhi area from 1994-95 to 1996-97 (upto 22.11.96) is as under :-

Period (Year)	Loading	Withdrawn
1994-95	1434	77
1995-96	3520	15971
1996-97 (Upto 22.11.96)	3839	31817

Allotment of Private Shops in Delhi Poet Office

1074. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of private shops have been allotted in the Post Offices of Delhi circle;

(b) if so, the norms/critaria/rules laid down for such allotment;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the shops have been allotted to the minions of the officers in violation of rules;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct any enquiry in this regard; and

(e) in not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Fifteen (15) post shops have been opened in Post Offices in Delhi Circle. The scheme of post shops is to provide an outlet in the post offices for items having synergy with post offices business. Details of the scheme are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir. These post shops have been allotted after observing the due formalities.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

STATEMENT

Details of the Scheme for Post Shop

1. Post shops can be opened in post offices functioning in Departmental buildings where adequate space is available.
2. Proposals/tenders are invited from members of the public for opening such post shops. These are examined by a committee comprising Chief Post Master General, Circle Internal Financial Adviser and Supdt. Engineer (Civil).
3. All things being equal, the highest bid in terms of emuneration offered in return for opening the post shop is accepted.
4. The expenditure for errection of any counter etc. for operating the post shop is to be borne by the selected applicant.
5. The post shop functions during office hours of the post office.

Amount Received from Licences

1075. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount in terms of licence is expected to be realised from the telecom licences awarded till now during next ten years;

(b) total amount in this regard which has been figured in the present budget of the Government; and

(c) the name of the licence payees up till now?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The required information for (a), (b) and (c) is given in the enclosed statement I, II and III respectively.